The Prayer That Jesus Prayed for YOU

John 17:18-26

Introduction:

As believers, when we are in need, one of the most consoling things we have is the knowledge that someone is praying for us. Some people seek to be touched by the Pope (this past week). Others seek the prayers of the departed saints and the treasury of merit.

No matter where you look, there is no greater prayer than the one we will look at this morning- the prayer of Jesus, the Son of God, Our Savior. He always prays in the Father’s will and His prayers are always answered. He is the One Who is praying for you in this passage.

I. Our World and Who We Are – 17:18-23

A. Our Program – 17:18-21

1. We are Sent – 17:18

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“As *You* sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”

Jesus was sent by the Father. The word “sent” is ἀποστέλλω – apostello. We get our word “apostle” from that word. It means to be sent with a commission.

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“Now then, we are ﻿﻿ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:20)

Question: Why was Jesus sent into the world?

Answer: To die. Good answer, but only partially right.

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John 3:14

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so ﻿﻿must the Son of Man be lifted up, [Correct - now the rest of the story]—“that whoever ﻿﻿believes in Him should ﻿﻿not perish but ﻿﻿have eternal life.”

We are not sent into the world to die for the world; We are sent to tell the world about Jesus’ death so that they will believe and receive eternal life. Jesus did His part- He died on the cross and paid the sin-debt for the whole world (2 Cor. 5:21). But they don’t even know. They must be told. That is our part.

2. We are Sanctified – 17:19

a. He sanctified Himself – 17:19a

“And ﻿﻿for their sakes I sanctify Myself,”

The basic meaning sanctify is “set apart”. Jesus “set Himself apart” to come to this world and die for the sins of the entire race of mankind. He separated Himself from His heavenly surroundings, laid aside His glory, laid aside His the use of His omni-attributes (which only God possesses), became a man, lived as a man (perfectly), taught men about the Father and His mission to redeem mankind by His death on the cross.

In a few hours, He will say, “It is finished” and return to the Father from whom He came, leaving the rest of the Mission to His disciples, the 11 and millions between them and You. For that mission, they will need to be sanctified.

b. They will be Sanctified by His Word – 17:19b

“that they also may be sanctified by the truth.”

We have already seen that the basic meaning of sanctify is “to set apart,” but that meaning must not be separated from its root meaning. ἁγιάζω is from the root “to be holy.”

Isaiah 6:3

“Holy, holy, holy *is* the Lord of hosts;”

Those three words caused Isaiah to exclaim, “Woe *is* me, for I am ﻿﻿undone! Because I *am* a man of ﻿﻿unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; (5)

“Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal *which* he had taken with the tongs from ﻿﻿the altar. ﻿And he ﻿﻿touched my mouth *with it,* and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips;” Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin ﻿﻿purged.” (6-7)

If we are to serve a “Holy, Holy, Holy” God, we must be “holy, holy, holy” ourselves. Does that mean “sinless perfection?” No! It means that when we sin, we confess it.

I John 1:9 – “confess your sin” - “ὁμολογέω” – literally “say he same thing”. (Call it what God calls it – “sin.”) Then, and only then, He forgives the sin and cleanses us from that sin and all unrighteousness.

Question: I thought we were forgiven at salvation! Good question, you are right! That is judicial (relational) forgiveness. The eternal judgment is settled.

There is also family (fellowship) forgiveness. Remember Chapter 13, Jesus washing the disciples’ feet? ﻿ Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, {wash} not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head!” Jesus said to him, “He who is bathed (λούω) needs only to wash (νίψῃς) *his* feet, but is completely clean; and ﻿﻿you (pl.) are clean… (9-10)

They will be sanctified through the Word. This does not happen just by owning a Bible, but it is a good start. We must be in the Word, reading, studying and practicing its precepts.

3. We are Successful – 17:20-21

a. The Prophecy by Christ – 17:20

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who ﻿﻿will believe in Me through their word;”

Jesus prayed for the “eleven” They added one more apostle (Matthias) to replace Judas. Then God added another one, Saul of Tarsus – also called Paul. Paul wrote 13 Epistles and his fingerprints are all over Hebrews (13) – but (in my opinion) He didn’t write it. I believe that the author was Luke, one of Paul’s associates, who also wrote the Gospel of Luke (24) and the Book of Acts (28). Mark wrote his gospel, perhaps guided by Peter.

Jesus prayed also for those who believe the gospel message, presented by them,

And their believers,

And their believers,

And their believers,

And their believers…

And those who believe the message from TLBC

when they share this truth by their life and lips.

b. Unity in Christ – 17:21

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“that they all may be one (v.11), as ﻿﻿You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, in order that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

In verse 11 Jesus prayed that they might be one. But He did not say how. Just, “that they may be one.” Here, He tells how it is done: He in the Father and The Father in Him.

Our oneness is not patterned after them as though it is just 2 persons getting together. They are in each other. There is a spiritual oneness. Our oneness will not be a mere human oneness, (national, racial, political, and societal). It will bear the Divine stamp - a oneness in the true God, a spiritual union with Him.

The goal of that unity is: “that the world may believe that You sent Me.” When the people of the world believe that Jesus was sent by the Father, They will believe that He is the Christ, The Son of the living God – and receive eternal life.

That is the goal of Jesus mission; the goal of the church and the goal of each individual believer.

B. Our Perfection – 17:22-23

1. His Glory Imparted to Us – 17:22a

“And the ﻿﻿glory which You gave Me I have given them.”

What is that “glory” which Jesus gave to the Church? When believers understand and believe the revelation of God that Jesus brought, they become partakers of that "glory."

2. His Goals Implemented by Us – 17:22b-23

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a. Character Transformation – 17:22b-23a

“that they may be, one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; ﻿﻿that they may be made perfect in one,”

The church is not a reliable witness unless they are united witness, in doctrine and in practice.

b. Convincing Testimony – 17:23b

“and that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me.”

The mission of the church is to tell the world - the entire human race- the message that God sent the Son into the world and that the Father loves the world as much as He loves the Son.

So far, we have seen the program of the Church. Our response might be, “I can’t do all of that. The world won’t listen to me!”

But, we have been reading about, now we will learn about,

II. The World and Who He Was – 17:24-26

A. His Pre-Existence to that World – 17:24

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1. His Desire – 17:24a

﻿﻿“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me;

Jesus, the Son, is about to die. He says I “will.” That sounds like He is making a “last will and testament.” In any case, it comes out the same way. When Jesus says, “I will” it is more sure than any will written on earth.

1. We will be with Him where He is. This is referring to Rapture and on into the eternal state.

2. We will behold His glory which was returned to Him at His ascension.

2. His Deity – 17:24b

“for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”

He is the One Who had created the world. This One Who is indwelling us also sent the Holy Spirit to empower us. We, the Church will succeed and the gates of Hell will not prevail against us.

B. His Presence in this World – 17:25-26

1. The Blind Majority – 17:25a

“O righteous Father! ﻿﻿The world has not known You,”

In spite of the fact that He had been in the world for 30+ years and had had a public ministry for the last 3+ years, the large majority had ignored Him or outwardly rejected Him and were about to crucify Him as a common criminal.

2. The Believing Minority – 17:25b-26

a. His Light is our Light – 17:25b-26a

“but ﻿﻿I have known You; and ﻿﻿these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it,*”

They have responded to the light of the world. He has made them lights of the world. This minority is not much to look at, physically, financially, intellectually or any other way, He wants them in heaven with Him, alongside of Gabriel the messenger angel, Michael warrior angel all of the other angels. He will not be ashamed of them at all. They are blood-bought sons of God whom Jesus is not ashamed to call Brothers. (Heb. 2:11)

b. His Love is our Love – 17:26b

“that the love ﻿﻿with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

He has given them His love. It’s as though Jesus is saying, “These are lacking in so many ways. They are going to need my extra-special help. I will give them the love with which you loved me. It will be in them and I will be in them as well.

Conclusion: With that He closed this prayer, but the prayer goes on “for He ever lives to make intercession for us.” (Hebrews 7:25)